

ATTACHMENT 11

Prior authorization versus spell of illness approval

The following chart illustrates two examples in which a physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech and language pathology provider must determine if prior authorization (PA) or spell of illness (SOI) approval is appropriate for a recipient's condition.

Example 1: The recipient's condition qualifies for Wisconsin Medicaid SOI approval.

A Medicaid-eligible recipient with multiple sclerosis experiences a regression in his functional condition. The recipient displays the ability to achieve the functional skill level that he had previously, qualifying him for an SOI. The recipient does not have commercial health insurance.



The provider does not anticipate the recipient's treatment will require more than the maximum allowable treatment days. The provider seeks SOI approval by submitting the Prior Authorization/ Spell of Illness Attachment (PA/SOIA) because:

- The recipient is not expected to exceed the number of allowable treatment days allotted for that SOI.
- The recipient's condition is recent.
- The recipient demonstrates the ability to achieve the functional skill level he had previous to the regression of his condition.

If the recipient's treatment is expected to exceed the maximum allowable treatment days, the provider should request PA from Wisconsin Medicaid by submitting the Prior Authorization/ Therapy Attachment (PA/TA).

Note: In the above situation, the provider also has the option of seeking PA by submitting the PA/TA.

Example 2: The recipient's condition does not qualify for Wisconsin Medicaid SOI approval.

A Medicaid-eligible recipient has a stroke. The recipient displays the ability to achieve the functional skill level that she had previously, qualifying her for an SOI.



The recipient has already received the maximum allowable treatment days as an outpatient.



The provider should request PA from Wisconsin Medicaid by submitting the PA/TA, not the PA/SOIA, because the recipient has exceeded the maximum allowable treatment days for that SOI.